

Adjustments to the audition process for the 19t Annual Young Artist Auditions competition 2022.

Due to the increase of infections in the very contagious Omicron variant of the Covid-19 disease, a decision has been made to return to a virtual format for the auditions and potentially the performances of the Young Artist Award 2022 entries. The competition will be modified in two ways.

- 1) All auditions must be video recorded. Similar to the process for the 2021 competition, all pieces performed must be no more than 10 minutes in length.
- 2) The deadline for the submission of this work has been extended to January 22, 2022
- 3) All video submissions must be the work of the applicant, or by an entity producing the video at the behest of said applicant. All videos must be unaltered, with no edits during the audition performance. No audio or visual enhancements of the video (i.e. special video effects, enhanced equalization of the sound) will be permitted. Please ensure that your audition is completed in "one take".
- 4) Submissions must be made electronically (as an Mp4 or Avi format). An electronic copy of the sheet music (a PDF) for each piece must be included with each submission. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

All electronic submission materials only should be sent to gaithersburgyaa@gmail.com

Any questions about the competition, should be sent to yaa@gaithersburgmd.gov, or to marc.wright@gaithersburgmd.gov

- 4) The video must feature two parts;
 - a) Part one; a one-minute introduction, in which you record yourself giving the following information:

Your name
Your instrument (i.e. flute, trumpet, guitar). Voice applicants should include your voice type (soprano, mezzo, tenor)
Your current music teacher
Your current school and grade level
Your current age
One fact that you want the faculty to know about you that they cannot learn from your application materials (e.g. my violin is a lost Pietro Guarneri violin; my father was my first music teacher, etc.)
 - b) Part two; your audition. The audition performance should be a maximum of ten minutes, complete without edits or breaks. No camera movement is desired such as zooms or pans. A static shot, which shows all of you as you perform is the best and simplest.
- 5) Produce your video to the best possible technical quality you can. A good quality recording made at home with a smartphone or video camera will be fine. If you have to make a choice, emphasize the sound quality of your audition over the video quality. While the jurors will need

to see you performing, it is absolutely necessary that they can hear you performing clearly, without any interference.

The Technical Specifications of the Recording

For the Audio tracks

Audio codec: AAC

Sample Rate: 44.100 KHZ

For the audition, an Audio bitrate minimum of 128 kbps VBR (Variable Bit Rate)

For the performance an Audio bitrate minimum of 128kbps VBR; a 320 kbps CBR (Constant Bit Rate) is preferred

A monophonic recording (using a single microphone) is acceptable.

For the Video track

Video codec: H.264 (.mp4)

Video Frame Rate: Native (No less than 23.98 FPS)

Video Bit Rate: At least 50mb/s

An image size of 640X480 is the minimum, with a 4:3 aspect ratio (Standard Definition) is acceptable. An image size of 1280x720 with a 16:9 aspect ratio is preferred. Please limit your work to the 1280X720 resolution, as higher rates are difficult to download and process. Submit your file as either an Mp4 or an Avi file format.

File Labeling

Your file must be named as per below;

Yourname_PerformancePieceTitle_Instrument.mp4

(First name last name, note the lack of spacing between names)

Example: JohnSmith_Maryhadalittlelamb_Bagpipe.mp4

No spaces and/or special characters allowed (: ! # , @ \$ % ? " ')

No accent marks or unique characters can be used for the file name

Example (incorrect): Marie-Désiré Martin-Beaulieu_Céphale_voice.mp4

Example (correct): Marie-DesireMartin-Beaulieu_Cephale_voice.mp4

Winners will have their names and the names of their performance pieces listed in their preferred character alphabet.